

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1 – 6C. These sheets, which include FIGS. 1A – 17B replace the original sheets including FIGS 1 – 6C. The numbering of the figures have been changed.

Attachment: Seventeen Replacement Sheets

Seventeen Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

I. Summary of the Examiner's Action

A. Drawing Objections

As set forth on page 2 of the January 30 Office Action, FIGS. 1 – 6c were objected to because more than one view is included per figure.

As set forth on page 3 of the January 30 Office Action, the drawings were objected to because they do not show every feature of the invention as specified in the claims.

B. Specification Objections

As set forth on page 4 of the January 30 Office Action, the specification was objected to because the figure numbers in the new Brief Description of the Figures and the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments do not appear to match the drawings of record.

C. Claim Objections

As set forth on page 4 of the January 30 Office Action, claims 2, 3 and 18 were objected to because of certain informalities.

D. Claim Rejections

As set forth on page 5 of the January 30 Office Action, claims 1 – 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

As set forth on page 6 of the January 30 Office Action, claims 1 – 22 stand rejected as failing to define the invention in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

As set forth in the January 30 Office Action, claims 1 - 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As set forth on page 11 of the January 30 Office Action, claims 1 - 3 and 6- 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,962,885 to Coffee (hereinafter “Coffee” or “the Coffee patent”).

As set forth on page 12 of the January 30 Office Action, claims 17 – 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 3,887,928 to Ohno et al. (hereinafter “Ohno” or “the Ohno patent”).

As set forth on page 14 of the January 30 Office Action, claims 10 - 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ohno patent in view of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0050946 to Wang *et al.* (hereinafter “the Wang patent”).

As set forth on page 15 of the January 30 Office Action, claims 1 – 3, 10 and 12 stand rejected over claims 1 – 3, 14 and 15 of copending Application No. 11/021,045 on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting.

II. Applicants’ Response – Power of Attorney

Applicants respectfully request that Power of Attorneys be entered reflecting the appointment of the undersigned as attorney of record in the application.

III. Applicants’ Response – Objections

A. Drawing Objections

The figures have been renumbered. In addition, amendments have been made to the specification and the drawings. FIG. 17D depicts a pumping means (such as, for example, a pneumatic pump). This is not new matter as the specification, as filed, refers to both a pumping means and pneumatic pumping operations. The operations now depicted in FIG. 17D would be understood by one skilled in the art to find both explicit and inherent support in the application as filed and as such does not constitute new matter. The Examiner is reminded that the claims form part of the specification for this

purpose, and that the specification can be amended to add subject matter from the claims that originally appeared in the application as filed.

Applicants respectfully request that the drawing objections be withdrawn.

B. Specification Objections

Applicants have amended the Brief Description of the Figures and the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments to conform to the renumbering of the figures. In addition, Applicants have amended the Brief Description of the Figures and the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments to improve the overall quality of the description by correcting, for example, grammatical errors. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request that the specification objections be withdrawn.

C. Claim Objections

Claims 2 – 9 and 18 have been amended so that they conform to proper claim drafting practice.

Applicants respectfully request that the claim objections be withdrawn.

IV. Applicants' Response – Claim Rejections

A. Rejection of Claims 1 – 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants have amended claim 1 to delete the subject matter identified by the Examiner as not finding support in the application as filed.

Applicants have amended claims 1 – 22 to overcome the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 – 22 on this basis be withdrawn.

B. Rejection of Claims 1 – 3 and 6 - 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Applicants reproduce claim 1 (as amended) as a convenience to the Examiner:

1. A cartridge for use with an electrostatic spraying device, the electrostatic spraying device having high voltage terminal, the cartridge comprising:

at least one storage region configured to store electrostatically sprayable material;

at least one spraying nozzle;

at least one tube connecting the at least one storage region to the at least one spraying nozzle, wherein during electrostatic spraying operations electrostatically sprayable material flows from the storage region to the at least one spraying nozzle;

a terminal configured to make electrical contact with the high voltage terminal of the electrostatic spraying device when the cartridge is mounted in the electrostatic spraying device; and

at least one ring surrounding the at least one spraying nozzle, the at least one ring electrically connected to the terminal, the at least one ring

configured to generate an electric field in the vicinity of the at least one spraying nozzle so that spraying from the at least one nozzle is focused when the forward extremities of the at least one nozzle and at least one ring are brought within a predetermined distance of an earthed target to be sprayed.

Applicants respectfully submit that it is not seen where the Coffee patent either describes or suggests each and every element of claim 1.

In particular, Coffee is not seen to either describe or suggest “a terminal” and “at least one ring” as currently recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the Coffee patent. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Applicants also respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claims 2 – 3 and 6 – 9 be withdrawn since claims 2 – 3 and 6 – 9 depend from an allowable base claim, and also due to their independently-recited subject matter.

C. Rejection of Claims 17 - 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Applicants reproduce claim 17 (as amended) as a convenience to the Examiner:

17. An electrostatic spraying device comprising:
a high voltage generator having a high voltage output;
at least one dispensing nozzle configured to release electrostatically
sprayable material during spraying operations;

a housing enclosing at least one reservoir configured to store materials to be sprayed;

a tube connecting the at least one dispensing nozzle and the at least one reservoir, the tube configured to convey the materials to be sprayed from the at least one reservoir to the at least one dispensing nozzle;

means coupling the high voltage output of the high voltage generator to the materials so that the voltage is conducted through the materials to the materials present at the at least one dispensing nozzle;

at least one ring surrounding the at least one dispensing nozzle, the at least one ring coupled to the high voltage generator, the at least one ring configured to develop a high voltage of the same polarity as that applied to the materials being sprayed and to generate an electric field in the vicinity of the at least one dispensing nozzle;

wherein during spraying operations the electrostatic spraying device is configured to impart an electrostatic charge to the materials issuing from the at least one nozzle and to focus the material being sprayed when a forward extremity of the ring is brought in proximity to an earthed target to be sprayed.

Applicants respectfully submit that it is not seen where the subject matter of claim 17 is either described or suggested by the art of record. In particular, the art of record neither describes nor suggests an “electrostatic spraying device configured ... to focus the material being sprayed when the forward extremity of the ring is brought in proximity to an earthed target to be sprayed.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 17 be withdrawn.

Applicants also respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claims 18 – 19 be withdrawn since claims 18 – 19 depend from an allowable base claim, and also due to their independently-recited subject matter.

D. Rejection of Claims 10 - 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicants reproduce claim 10 (as amended) as a convenience to the Examiner:

10. An electrostatic spraying device comprising:
a high voltage generator having a high voltage output;
at least one dispensing nozzle configured to release electrostatically sprayable material during spraying operations;
at least one reservoir configured to store materials to be sprayed;
a tube connecting the at least one dispensing nozzle and the at least one reservoir;
a pumping means for pumping the material through the tube from the at least one reservoir to the at least one dispensing nozzle;
means coupling the high voltage output of the high voltage generator to the material for imparting a high voltage to the material present at the at least one dispensing nozzle;
at least one ring surrounding the at least one dispensing nozzle, the at least one ring coupled to the high voltage generator, the at least one ring configured to generate an electric field in the vicinity of the at least one dispensing nozzle;
an actuating means for activating the high voltage generator and the pumping means;
wherein during spraying operations when the high voltage generator and the pumping means are activated by the actuating means the electrostatic spraying device is configured to impart an electrostatic charge to the material issuing from the at least one

nozzle to form an electrostatically charged spray, and to focus the electrostatically charged spray to prevent immediate dispersion of the charged spray when forward extremities of the at least one ring and the at least one spraying nozzle is brought in proximity to an earthed target to be sprayed.

Applicants respectfully submit that it is not seen where the subject matter of claim 10 is either described or suggested by the art of record. In particular, the art of record neither describes nor suggests an “electrostatic spraying device configured ... to focus the electrostatically charged spray to prevent immediate dispersion of the charged spray when forward extremities of the at least one ring and the at least one spraying nozzle is brought in proximity to an earthed target to be sprayed.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 10 be withdrawn.

Applicants also respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claims 11 – 16 be withdrawn since claims 11 – 16 depend from an allowable base claim, and due to their independently-recited subject matter.

E. Provisional Double Patenting Rejection

Applicants have filed a Terminal Disclaimer and the appropriate fee to overcome the provisional double patenting rejection.



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V. Conclusion

Applicants submit that in light of the foregoing remarks the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and that the case be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

July 30, 2007

Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, David M. O'Neill, hereby certify that the following correspondence was deposited on July 30, 2007 with the United States Patent and Trademark Office using the Express Mail Post Office to Addressee service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 in an envelope bearing the Express Mail Label No. ER936657385US and addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

July 30, 2007

Date

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Name of Person Making Deposit